

Department of Water Resources (DWR) Local Groundwater Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

General

Q: Can the same agency submit multiple applications for separate projects?

A: DWR does not limit the number of applications an entity submits. However, in accordance with the Proposal Solicitation and Application Package (PSP), no single applicant will receive more than \$250,000 in grant funds.

Q: Are county departments or special districts considered a single applicant?

A: No. Departments within the same county government are not legally distinct entities. Some local agencies, departments, or special districts within the same county, however, may be separate entities.

Q: Is there preference for cost shared projects?

A: No.

Q: Is there a map of the ten hydrologic areas of the state posted on the web?

A: DWR's California Water Plan web page, California's Groundwater - Bulletin 118 http://www.groundwater.water.ca.gov/bulletin118/basin_maps/index.cfm contains the hydrologic and groundwater basins in California.

Q: How are the applications scored?

A: Applications are scored individually according to the scoring criteria listed in Table 1 of the PSP.

Q: Can you let us know if the electronic copy only needs to contain the main application regarding the project? It would be difficult for us to scan all of the supporting documents, such as the Groundwater Management Plan, adjudication documents, and support letters.

A: DWR only needs an electronic copy of the application, Parts A and B. Hard copies on the supporting documentation will be sufficient. It is not necessary to scan supporting documentation.

Q: We are proposing a local groundwater assistance program that will cover an entire county. How do we determine the latitude and longitude for Part A-1?

A: Find the center of the county, the county seat, or where most of the work will be performed and provide the latitude and longitude in decimal format for that location.

Eligibility

Q: We're primarily an agricultural supplier, are we subject to the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) requirement?

A: Only if you meet the Urban Water Supplier criteria (over 3,000 municipal service connections for human consumption or over 3,000 acre-feet of municipal supply for human consumption). If an applicant does not meet the criteria, the UWMP requirement is not applicable. For questions contact David Todd by telephone at (916) 651-7027 or by email at dtodd@water.ca.gov.

Q: We're an agricultural supplier who is partnering with other agencies for a basin wide planning effort. Do the UWMP requirements apply? Must we show compliance for each partner?

A: Yes, if you are partnering with Urban Water Suppliers, the UWMP requirement applies.

Q: We are a Watermaster. Are we eligible for a grant?

A: A Watermaster that was appointed by a judge is not considered a local public agency, and such is not eligible for a grant. However, a Watermaster may partner with an eligible local agency to apply for a grant. The local agency must be the applicant and provide the information in Part A.

Contractual

Q: Is there an impact to the grant contracting process from recent changes in the Labor Code (Labor Compliance Program)?

A: Language in the Example Agreement states that the Grantee shall keep informed of and take all measures necessary to ensure compliance with the California Labor Code requirements.

Submittal

Q: Is there a preferred format for the electronic copy?

A: Yes. It is MSWORD.

Q: Do environmental documents need to be submitted with the application?

A: No, unless they are needed to support a reference in the detailed submittal section.

A plan for environmental compliance (CEQA) is required for the proposed project and will be part of the grant agreement.

Q: If a project is going out to bid and individual cost items are not known for the budget, what then?

A: You should estimate the budget items as best you can and provide backup information as to how you arrived at your estimate.

Q: We submitted an application last year. Can I resubmit the same authorizing resolution that I provided last year?

A: If the proposed project has significantly changed or the members of the authorizing authority have changed, then a new authorizing resolution is needed. It is important to show that your governing body remains in favor of the proposed project including the project work plan, schedule, and budget. If you are using the prior authorizing resolution, then provide a statement stating that nothing has changed since the last resolution was last signed.

Groundwater Management Plan or Programs

Q: What is the basis for preference for applicants with a Ground Water Management Plan (GWMP)?

A: Water Code Section 10795.6 (a) of the Local Groundwater Assistance Act of 2000 requires DWR to award grants based on the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Panel, which must give priority to a *local public agency that has adopted a local groundwater management plan* and that demonstrates collaboration by the local public agency with other public agencies with regard to the management of the affected groundwater basin.

Q: What is a GWMP or the equivalent?

A: A GWMP may consist of a plan adopted in accordance with CWC Section 10750 *et seq.* or other authority. Alternatively, a local agency may have some other formal groundwater management program. Examples include a Code equivalent county groundwater ordinance or court ordered adjudication. To be competitive in the grant selection process and consistent with the Water Code, an equivalent document should address the components in CWC Section 10750 *et seq.* in Table 1.

Q: We are a county with no GWMP. Can we use GWMP of the water agency for the basin covering the proposed work area in the county?

A: Yes if the project is under the GWMP. The proposal will be evaluated based on the how well the water agency's GWMP meets the scoring criteria. Applicant should address and refer to the pages in the other agency's GWMP when completing your Part B Detail Description of the Proposal.

Q: If an applicant specifically does not have a GWMP, but the applicant is part of an adjudicated basin managed by a Watermaster, can the Watermaster's plan be used?

A: If the proposed project relates to the Watermaster's GWMP, then yes. Your submittal should also demonstrate the relationship between the proposed project and the GWMP and your agency's efforts in participating in and supporting the GWMP.

Q: We've got an AB 3030 plan, but the scope/jurisdiction of the plan is limited to delineated Bulletin 118 groundwater basins. What if I'm applying for a project within my agency's service area but outside the AB 3030 plan boundaries?

A: Water Code section 10753 (a) allows for management of groundwater outside a basin boundary via resolution or ordinance. As such, the situation described may be an extension or modification of the existing AB 3030 plan. As an alternative, your agency could propose a new GWMP for that specific area.

For specific questions, please contact Harley H. Davis (916) 651-9229 or email at harley@water.ca.gov.

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